

6/ 1568/414.  
An Account of the

# TWO BROTHERS,

*Perseus and Demetrius,*

The SONS of *PHILIP* King  
of *Macedon*.

Collected from the *Grecian History*.

— *Fratrum quoque Gratia rara est.*  
Ovid. de *Ætate ferreâ*.

(*Very necessary for the READERS and  
SPECTATORS of The New Tragedy*)

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Written by the AUTHOR of

*BUSIRIS,*  
*The REVENGE,* } TRAGEDIES.  
*And The UNIVERSAL PASSION, SATIRES, &c.*

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L O N D O N :

Printed for J. WATTS at the Printing-Office in  
*Wild-Court near Lincoln's-Inn Fields.*

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price Six-pence.

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The 80 MS of PHILIP King

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An Account of the

# TWO BROTHERS,

*Perseus and Demetrius,*

The Sons of *Philip* King of *Macedon*.

**T**HERE is something so interesting in the Story of the two Princes, the Subject of the following Narrative, that if it serv'd not to elucidate, and give a better insight into the excellent Tragedy now on the Stage, it cannot but be thought worth reading; and therefore it seem'd proper to collect it on this Occasion from the best Materials.

*Antigonus*, who had taken upon him the Title of King of *Macedon*, settled the Succession to his Dominions in favour of *Philip* (the Son of *Demetrius* his Predecessor,) who was then fourteen years of Age; or it may rather be said that he return'd him the Scepter, which had only been deposited in his hands.

*Philip* possessed all the good Qualities that can endear a King to his People; such as a lively Genius, an happy Memory, an easy Elocution, and an unaffected Grace in all his Actions; a beautiful Aspect, heighten'd by a noble and majestic Air which struck the Beholders with Awe and Respect; a sweetness of Temper, Affability, and a desire to please universally; to which was added a Valour and Intrepidity in War which



far exceeded his Years. The exerting these Qualities in a proper manner was chiefly owing to the Counsels of his Friend *Aratus*, a Man of the strictest Honour and Probity ; prudent in Council, and vers'd by long Experience in all the Art of War. How happy is it for a young Prince to possess a General of this Character ; to know the Merit of these Qualities ; to be sensible of their high Value ; - to be docil to his Advice, and to let himself be guided by his wise Counsels.

Such was *Philip* at the beginning of his Reign, but having received a considerable Overthrow from the *Romans* in a battle at *Apollonia*, he began to change his Temper, and to throw off gradually the good Qualities for which he had been so justly admired : Instead of the Gentleness, Moderation, and Wisdom, which he had till then display'd, he treated Cities and States, not only with Pride and Haughtiness, but with Cruelty and Injustice ; and even proceeded so far as to cause his Friend *Aratus* to be poison'd. And now having no longer his Glory in view, he abandon'd himself to Riot and Excess of every kind ; the too common Effect of Flattery, whose subtle Poison generally corrupts the best Princes, and sooner or later destroys the great hopes which had been entertained of them.

From a Report that was spread among the States contiguous to *Macedonia*, that such as went to *Rome* to complain against *Philip* were heard there, and many of them very favourably ; a great number of Cities, and even private Persons made their Complaints in that City against a Prince, who was a very troublesome Neighbour to them all, with the hopes, either of having their injuries redress'd, or, at least, in some measure to console themselves for them, by being allowed the Liberty to deplore them.

*Philip* had two Sons, *Perseus* and *Demetrius*. *Demetrius* was now at *Rome*, whither he had been sent by



by his Father in order to superintend his Affairs in that City. It was properly his Business to answer the several Accusations brought against his Father; but the Senate imagining that this would be a very difficult Task for so young a Prince, who was not accusom'd to speak in public; to spare him that trouble, they sent certain Persons to him to inquire, whether the King his Father had not given him some Memorials; and contented themselves with his reading them. *Philip* therein justified himself to the best of his power, with respect to most of the Articles that were exhibited against him; but he shewed great disgust at the Decrees which the *Roman* Commissioners had enacted, and at the treatment he had met with from them. The Senate saw plainly what all this tended to; and as the young Prince endeavoured to apologize for certain Particulars, and assured them that every thing should be done agreeably to the Will of the *Romans*, the Senate replied that his Father *Philip* could not have acted more wisely, or in any thing more obliged them, than in sending his Son *Demetrius* to make his Excuses: That as to past Transactions, the Senate might dissemble, forget, and bear with a great many things; that as to the future, they relied on the Promise which *Demetrius* gave of his constant Attachement to them, so far as was consistent with the Duty he owed his Father; that out of regard to him Embassadors should be sent to *Macedon*, to rectify, peaceably and without noise, whatever might have been hitherto amiss; and that as to the rest, the Senate was well pleased to let *Philip* know, that he was oblig'd to his Son *Demetrius* for the Tendernefs with which the *Romans* behaved towards him. These marks of Distinction, which the Senate gave *Demetrius* with the view of exalting his credit in his Father's Court, only rais'd Envy against him and at length occasion'd his Destruction.

The

The Return of *Demetrius* to *Macedon*, and the Arrival of the Embassadors, produced different Effects, according to the various Dispositions of Mens Minds. The People who extremely feared the Consequences of a Rupture with the *Romans*, and the War that was preparing, were highly pleased with *Demetrius*, from the hopes that he would be the Mediator and Author of a lasting Peace: Not to mention that they considered him as the Successor to the Throne of *Macedon* after the Demise of his Father. For tho' he was the younger Son, he had one great Advantage of his Brother, and that was, his being born of a Mother, who was *Philip's* lawful Wife; whereas *Perseus* was the Son of a Concubine, and even reputed supposititious. Besides it was not doubted but that the *Romans* would place *Demetrius* on the Throne, as *Perseus* had no Credit among them. And these were the common Reports.

On one side also *Perseus* was greatly uneasy, as he feared that the Advantage of being elder Brother would be but a feeble Title against a Brother superior to him in all respects; and, on the other, *Philip* imagining that it would not be in his power to dispose of the Throne as he pleased, beheld with a jealous Eye, and dreaded the too great Authority of his younger Son. It was also a great mortification to him to see rising in his Life-time, and before his Eyes, a kind of second Court in the Levée of *Demetrius*. Nor did the young Prince himself take sufficient care to prevent or sooth his growing Disaffection towards him. Instead of endeavouring to suppress Envy by Gentleness, Modesty, and Complacency, he only inflamed it, by a certain Air of Haughtiness which he had brought with him from *Rome*, valuing himself upon the Marks of Distinction, with which he had been honour'd in that City; and not scrupling to declare, that the Senate had granted him many Things they had refused his Father.

*Perseus,*



*Perseus*, in the mean while, saw with infinite Pain that the regard of the *Macedonians* for his Brother *Demetrius*, and his Credit and Authority among the *Romans* increased daily; and having now no Hopes of ascending the Throne but by criminal Methods he made them his only Refuge. But not having Courage enough to put his Designs in execution immediately, he began by founding the Disposition of those who were in greatest Favour with the King, and by addressing them in obscure and ambiguous Words. At first some seemed not to enter into his Views, and rejected his Proposals, from believing there was more to be hoped from *Demetrius*. But afterwards observing that *Philip* still kept up his Hatred for the *Romans*, which *Perseus* endeavoured to inflame while *Demetrius* opposed it to the utmost, they changed their Opinion. Judging naturally that the latter, whose Youth and Inexperience prevented his being sufficiently upon his guard against the Artifices of his Brother, would one day fall a Victim to them; they thought it proper to close with the stronger Party, and accordingly devoted themselves entirely to *Perseus*.

Having postponed the Execution of their more remote Designs, they thought it enough for the present to employ their utmost Efforts to exasperate the King against the *Romans*, and to inspire him with Thoughts of War, to which he was already very much inclined. At the same time to render *Demetrius* every day more suspected, they industriously on all Occasions made the Discourse turn in the King's Presence upon the *Romans*; some expressing the utmost Contempt for their Laws and Customs, others for their Exploits; some ridiculing their Buildings, others such Men as were in the highest Estimation. *Demetrius*, who did not perceive the Scope and Tendency of these Discourses, never failed, out of Zeal for the *Romans*, and by way of Contradiction to his Brother, to take fire on these Occasions. Hence, without considering the Consequences,



quences, he grew suspected and still more odious to the King, and opened the way to the Accusations and Calumnies preparing against him; so that his Father did not communicate to him any of the Designs he continually meditated against *Rome*, but unbosom'd himself only to *Perseus*.

*Philip* was at this time somewhat elevated with the new Alliance which he had contracted with the *Bastarnæ*, who had sent Embassadors to him, and with them several young Noblemen and Princes of the Blood; one of whom had promised his Sister in marriage to one of *Philip's* Sons. *Perseus* therefore took this Opportunity of addressing him in the following manner. "Of what use can this be to us? We have  
 " not so much to hope from foreign Aids as to dread  
 " from domestic Foes. We harbour in our Bosoms,  
 " I will not say a Traitor, but at least a Spy. The  
 " *Romans* ever since he was an Hostage among them  
 " have restored us his Body, but they still retain his  
 " Heart and Inclinations. Almost all the *Macedo-*  
 " *nians* have their Eyes fixed on him, and are  
 " persuaded that they shall never have any King but  
 " whom the *Romans* shall please to set over them". By such Speeches was the old King's Disgust perpetually kept up, tho' his Countenance seldom betray'd the Rancour of his Mind.

About this time the Army was review'd at a Festival solemniz'd every Year with religious Pomp and the following Ceremonies. A Bitch was divided into two Parts, and on each Side of the Road was laid a Part, between which the whole Company present made a Procession. (See *Jer.* xxxiv. 18.) At the Head of this March were carried the shining Arms of all the Kings of *Macedon*. The King with the Princes his Children went next, followed by all the royal Household, and the Guards; and the March is closed by the Multitude of the *Macedonians*. On the present Occasion the two Princes walked on each Side of the  
 King;

King; *Perseus* being thirty Years of Age, and *Demetrius* twenty-five; the one in the Vigour, and the other in the Flower of his Age; Sons who might have made their Father happy, had he been rightly dispos'd, and treated them in a proper manner.

The Custom was, after the Sacrifices which accompanied the Ceremony were over, to exhibit a Kind of Tournament, and to divide the Army into two Bodies, who fought with no other Arms than Files and Sticks, representing a Battle. The two Princes commanded each of them a Party. However, this proved not a sham Fight, all the Men exerting themselves with as much Ardor as if they had been contending for a Throne; several were wounded on both Sides, and nothing but Swords were wanting to make it a real Battle. The Body commanded by *Demetrius* had very much the Superiority. This Advantage gave great Umbrage to *Perseus*. His Friends on the contrary rejoiced at it, judging that this would give him a favourable Opportunity to form an Accusation against his Brother.

The two Princes on that Day gave a grand Entertainment to the Soldiers of their respective Parties. *Perseus* whom his Brother had invited to his Banquet refused to come. The Joy was great on both Sides, and the Guests drank in proportion. Their Discourse naturally turn'd upon the Battle, and many severe Jokes and satirical Flings were passed upon the contrary Party, without sparing even the Leaders. *Perseus* had sent a Spy to observe all that should be said at his Brother's Banquet, but four young Gentlemen who came by accident out of the Hall, having discover'd this Spy, gave him very rough Treatment. *Demetrius*, who had heard nothing of this, said to his Company, "Come, let us go and conclude our Feast at my Brother's, to soften his Anger, (if he has any remaining) by an agreeable Surprise; which will shew our Frankness and Sincerity, and that we do not har-

"*bear any Malice against him.*" All cried out they would go, except the Four, who were afraid their ill Treatment of the Spy would be returned. But *Demetrius* forcing them thither also, they concealed Swords under their Robes in order to defend themselves in case of Necessity. When Discord reigns in Families, it is impossible for any thing to be kept secret. A Man ran hastily before, and told *Perseus*, that *Demetrius* was coming with four armed Men in his Train. He might easily have guessed the Cause of it, as he knew that they were the Persons who had abused his Spy : Yet to make this Action still more criminal, he ordered the Doors to be locked ; and from a Window next to the Street called aloud to his Servants not to open the Door to Wretches who were come with a Design to assassinate him. *Demetrius*, who was a little warm with Wine, after having complained in a loud and angry Tone of Voice at being refused Admittance, returned back, and took his Seat again at the Table, still ignorant of the Affair relating to the Spy.

The next Day, as soon as *Perseus* could get an Opportunity to see his Father, he entered his Apartment with a very dejected Air, and stood a while at some distance from him, without saying a Word. *Philip*, surpris'd at this his silent Posture, cried out, *Is all well, my Son? why sits that heavy Sorrow on your Brow! Alas, Sir,* replied *Perseus*, *It is merely by good Fortune that you see me here alive. My Brother no longer lays secret Snares for me. He came in the Night to my House with a Band of Assassins to murder me. Nor had I any other way to escape their Fury than by barricading my Door, and keeping the Wall between us.* *Perseus* perceiving by his Father's Countenance that he was struck with Astonishment and Horror, added, *If you will condescend to lend me a patient Ear, I will lay before you the whole State of the Case.* *Philip* then told him, he would willingly hear him, and immediately



diately ordered that *Demetrius* should be sent for. He likewise required that *Lyfimachus* and *Onomastes* should be call'd in, to advise him on this Occasion. These were two of his intimate Friends, and far advanced in Years; who had not concerned themselves with the Quarrel of the two Princes, and appeared very seldom at Court. *Philip*, whilst he waited their coming, walked up and down the Room in great Agitation, revolving various Thoughts in his Mind, his Son *Perseus* standing all the time at some distance. When Word was brought *Philip* that his two venerable Friends were come, he retired into an inner Apartment with them and two of his Body-guard; permitting also each of his Sons to bring with him three Persons unarmed; and having taken his Seat he spoke to them as follows. “ Behold in me an unhappy Father, here sitting in Judgment on my two Sons, while one is the Accuser, and the other charged, truly or falsely, with the horrid Guilt of Fratricide, From certain Rumours indeed, and the strange Behaviour that I have for some time observed between you (a Behaviour by no means suiting Brothers) I foresaw and dreaded this impending Storm. And yet I hoped from time to time that these Discontents and Animosities would subside, and every jealous suspicion vanish away. I recollected that contending Kings and Princes, laying down their Arms, had frequently contracted Alliances and Friendships, and that it was no unusual thing for private Men to suppress their Resentments. I flattered myself that you would one Day remember the endearing Name of Brethren by which you are united; the Familiarity and Amity of the more simple and tender Years of Infancy; and above all, the Precepts so often instilled into you by me your Father; but alas! you heard them not; I sung them, I am afraid, to a deaf Ear. How often have I, setting before you Examples of Discord between Brothers, shewed

“ you the fatal Consequences of such Procedure,  
 “ which hath involved in Ruin not only themselves,  
 “ but their Children, Families, and Kingdom?  
 “ Nor did I forget to propose good Examples for  
 “ your Imitation; and particularly the strict Union  
 “ between the two Kings of *Lacedæmonia*, so advan-  
 “ tageous during several Centuries to themselves and  
 “ their happy Country; but that Division and private  
 “ Interest had changed the monarchic Government  
 “ into Tyranny, and proved the Destruction of  
 “ *Sparta*; that by fraternal Concord alone the two  
 “ Brothers, *Eumenes* and *Attalus*, from such low Be-  
 “ ginnings as almost reflected Dishonour on regal Dig-  
 “ nity, had risen to such a pitch of Grandeur as to equal  
 “ mine, or that of *Antiochus*, or any other King these  
 “ Times can boast. From the *Romans* too I cited  
 “ Examples, which I had either seen myself, or heard  
 “ from others; as of the two Brothers, *Titus* and  
 “ *Lucius Quintius*, who both were engaged in War  
 “ with me; and of the two *Scipios*, who defeated  
 “ *Antiochus*; and of their Father and their Uncle  
 “ who were as inseparable in their Death, as in the  
 “ Unanimity of their whole Lives. But neither the  
 “ Crimes of the former which were attended with  
 “ such dreadful Consequences, nor the Virtues of  
 “ these, tho’ crowned with continual Success, could  
 “ prevail upon you my Children, to abhor Division and  
 “ Discord, or inspire you with gentle and pacific Sen-  
 “ timents. Even while I am alive you turn your  
 “ Eyes, and set your guilty Desires upon my Throne;  
 “ nay, you would have me live, till surviving one of  
 “ you, I secure the Crown to the other by my Death.  
 “ The fond Names of Father and Brother are insup-  
 “ portable to you both. Your Souls are Strangers to  
 “ Tenderness and Love. A restless Desire of reign-  
 “ ing has banished all other Sentiments from your  
 “ Breasts, and intirely ingrossed your Care. But  
 “ come, my Children, speak what you have to say,  
 “ and

“ and rend your Father’s Ear with real or feigned  
 “ Accusations; vent all your reciprocal Slanders, by  
 “ way of Preamble to your slaughtering Hands. Speak  
 “ then, or be for ever dumb; for from henceforth I  
 “ shall shut my Ears against the secret Whispers or  
 “ public Accusations of Brother against Brother.—

*Philip* having spoke these last Words with great emotion and an angry tone of Voice, all who were present shed Tears, and continued a long time in mournful Silence.

At last *Perseus* said, “ I plainly perceive then, that  
 “ I should have opened my Door in the dead of  
 “ Night, admitted the Assassins into my House, and  
 “ presented my Throat to their Swords; since a Belief of Guilt is not to be entertained before the  
 “ Crime is perpetrated; and since I, who have been  
 “ so inhumanly attacked, receive the same Reproaches  
 “ as the vile Aggressor. Well may it be said, that  
 “ you have but one Son, this *Demetrius*, while I am  
 “ treated as a Stranger, sprung from a Concubine,  
 “ or even an Impostor. For, pardon me, Sir, did  
 “ your Breast glow with the Tenderneſs which a Father ought to have for his Child, you would not  
 “ think it just to inveigh so bitterly against *me*, (who  
 “ now complain, and not without reason, of the cruel  
 “ Snares that have been laid to destroy me) but  
 “ against the Man who formed the base Design; nor  
 “ would my Life appear of so little Concern to you,  
 “ as not to be moved with the imminent Danger I  
 “ have escaped; or with what may ensue, if my Enemies are suffered to go unpunished. But if I must  
 “ die without being permitted to utter my Complaints; be it so: In my expiring Moments I shall  
 “ pray to the Gods, that the Crime which was begun  
 “ in the Design upon my Person, may likewise end  
 “ there, and not reach your sacred Life. But if, (as  
 “ Nature herself inspires those who are attacked in a  
 “ strange Place even to implore the Help of such  
 “ whom



“ whom they never saw before) when I see the threat-  
 “ ning Swords around me, I may be allowed to pour  
 “ forth a plaintive and supplicating Voice; I con-  
 “ jure you by the tender, the dear Name of Father,  
 “ (which, whether I or my Brother have held in  
 “ greater Reverence, you have long known) listen  
 “ to this my Complaint; as if awaked suddenly  
 “ from your Sleep by the Tumult of last Night, you  
 “ had come upon us at that instant, and had taken  
 “ *Demetrius* with his armed Confederates in the Fact.  
 “ What I then should have uttered under the severest  
 “ Terror, I say to you now.

“ Brother, it is long since we have behaved to  
 “ one another as Friends and Companions in any  
 “ party of Pleasure; and what has prevented this  
 “ but your insatiable desire to reign? which fell  
 “ Purpose hath found an invincible Obstacle in my  
 “ Seniority, in the Law of Nations, the ancient  
 “ Customs of *Macedonia*, and a still stronger Cir-  
 “ cumstance, in the Will and Pleasure of my Fa-  
 “ ther. It is impossible for you to force these Bar-  
 “ riers, and ascend the Throne, but by imbruing  
 “ your Hands in my Blood. To compass this horrid  
 “ End, there is nothing you have left unattempted,  
 “ but hitherto my own Vigilance or good Fortune  
 “ hath preserved me from your unbrotherly and most  
 “ cruel purposes. Yesterday, at the Review and the  
 “ Ceremony of the Tournament that followed it,  
 “ the Battle by your Contrivance had like to have  
 “ proved bloody and fatal; and had I not suffered  
 “ myself and Followers to give out in time, you  
 “ would certainly have sent me to the Grave. From  
 “ this hostile Fight, as if it had been only from  
 “ friendly Diversion you insidiously invited me to  
 “ Supper.—Can you suppose, royal Sire, that I  
 “ should have met with unarmed Guests there, when  
 “ those very Guests came arm'd upon me in the  
 “ Night? Can you imagine, that at so late an

“ Hour

" Hour I had no reason to apprehend danger from  
 " their Swords, when in open day, and before your  
 " Face, they had almost dispatch'd me with their  
 " Battoons?—Why come you, Brother, at this  
 " unseasonable Hour, you, who are my professed  
 " Enemy; and are conscious that I have just reason  
 " to complain of your Conduct? and why thus  
 " accompanied with a Band of armed young Men?  
 " Shall I, who thought it not safe to venture myself  
 " at your Entertainment, now receive you in my  
 " House, when heated with the fumes of Wine you  
 " come thus powerfully attended?—Certainly, my  
 " Father, had I open'd the Door, you would have  
 " been preparing to solemnize my Funeral, at this  
 " very Instant in which you vouchsafe to hear my  
 " Complaints. I advance nothing maliciously as an  
 " Informer, nor speak I any thing by Conjecture  
 " only, and without Proof. For why? can *Deme-*  
 " *trius* deny that he came to my Door in a riotous  
 " Manner, accompanied as before alledg'd? I beg  
 " they may be sent for, whom I shall name. They who  
 " dared such an Attempt indeed, seem capable of  
 " any thing; but it is impossible they should have  
 " the Assurance to deny this Fact. Had I brought  
 " them before you, armed as they were, and taken  
 " upon the Spot, you could not but have been fully  
 " convinced of their Guilt; and surely their own  
 " Confession will be as strong a Proof of it.

" Pour out now your Imprecations on such im-  
 " pious Sons as dare aspire to your Throne, and call  
 " upon the Furies to punish fraternal Discord: but I  
 " beseech you, royal Sir, not to vent your imprecations  
 " too blindly and at random. Consider, if  
 " you please, and distinguish between the Innocent  
 " and the Guilty, between the Treacherous and  
 " him for whom the Snare was laid. Know then this  
 " was the Man who meditated the horrid Design of  
 " murdering his Brother; and let such a one feel  
 " the

“ the dire Effects of the Wrath of Gods, the Aven-  
 “ gers of paternal Authority; while he, who by his  
 “ Brother’s Guilt was brought to the Brink of Destruc-  
 “ tion, finds an Asylum in the Tenderness and Justice  
 “ of a Father : For where else can I fly for Succour?  
 “ when neither the Company at the Review, the So-  
 “ lemnity of the Tournament, my own House, the  
 “ Rights of a Festival, nor even the Hours of Night  
 “ allotted by the Gods to the Repose of Man, could  
 “ afford me the least Security? Were I to accept  
 “ my Brother’s Invitation, Death is the Consequence;  
 “ nor less fatal would it be to me to receive him into  
 “ my House at midnight; whether I go then, or go  
 “ not, equal danger surrounds me: Every step I  
 “ tread, my Life is in jeopardy; to what Place then  
 “ can I fly for safety?

“ I have devoted myself only to the Gods, and to  
 “ you, my royal Father: and none else can I have  
 “ recourse to. The *Romans* wish nothing more ear-  
 “ nestly than my Ruin; because they know I resent  
 “ their Injustice to you; and am fired with Indigna-  
 “ tion, to see you dispossess’d of so many Cities,  
 “ and Dominions, and lately of the maritime  
 “ Courts of *Thrace*; and because they cannot expect  
 “ ever to be Masters of *Macedonia* while you or I  
 “ remain alive: They know that should I die by my  
 “ Brother’s Guilt, or Age bring you to the Grave,  
 “ or should they not wait the Course of Nature, that  
 “ then the King and Kingdom of *Macedonia* would be  
 “ at their Disposal.

“ Had the *Romans* left you any City or Territory  
 “ without the Bounds of *Macedonia*, I might possibly  
 “ have had an Opportunity of retiring to it: but I  
 “ know of no such Asylum. And if it be said, that  
 “ among the *Macedonians* I am powerfully enough  
 “ protected; you yourself, royal Father, saw but  
 “ yesterday with what animosity and virulence some-  
 “ of the Soldiers attack’d me. What was wanting  
 “ for



“ for my Destruction, but Swords of Steel? but  
 “ what they had not in the Day-time my Brother’s  
 “ Guests took with them in the Night. And what  
 “ shall I say of some of the principal Persons in your  
 “ Court; who ground all their hopes of Grandeur,  
 “ and better Fortune on the *Romans*, and on him  
 “ who is the *Romans* Darling? Truly they are not  
 “ ashamed to prefer him not only to me, his elder  
 “ Brother, but I may almost say it, to you who are  
 “ our King and Father. You must thank *Demetrius*,  
 “ as they pretend, for the remission of severer Pen-  
 “ alties from the Senate; It is he who now checks the  
 “ *Romans*, and prevents their advancing, in a hos-  
 “ tile manner, into your Kingdom; and who  
 “ fancies it to be just, that your old Age should be  
 “ thought to owe its Protection to his juvenile Con-  
 “ duct. Not only the *Romans* are on his side, but all  
 “ the Cities which have been dismember’d from your  
 “ Dominions, and such of the *Macedonians* as rejoice  
 “ in the new-made Treaty of Peace. But as for me,  
 “ I have no Protector, no Hopes, (and I glory in say-  
 “ ing it,) but in my royal Father.

“ What do you judge to be the Aim and Design  
 “ of the Letters you lately receiv’d from *T. Quintius*,  
 “ wherein he expressly declares, that you acted pru-  
 “ dently for your Interest, in sending *Demetrius* to  
 “ *Rome*: *Quintius* has him at his beck, and tutors him  
 “ in every thing. *Demetrius* quite forgetting that you  
 “ are his Father, seems to have substituted *Quintius*  
 “ in your Place. It is there, in the City of *Rome*,  
 “ where every secret and clandestine Design is form’d  
 “ against you; and to this purpose *Quintius* now or-  
 “ ders you to send thither *Demetrius*, and a greater  
 “ Number of *Macedonian* Nobility. They let out  
 “ perhaps with the most sincere Attachment to your  
 “ Person and Interest, but cajoled by the courteous  
 “ Treatment they there meet with, they return with  
 “ different Sentiments, entirely disaffected. *Deme-*

“ *trius* is all in all with them ; they even presume in  
 “ his Father’s Life-time to call him King. If I seem  
 “ enraged at this, I am straight accused not by others  
 “ only, but by you, my royal Father, of aspiring to  
 “ the Throne. Let it come to Proof, I plead *not*  
 “ *guilty*. For, whom should I transplant in that Case,  
 “ in order to succeed him ? There is no one but my  
 “ Father between me and the Throne ; and I beseech  
 “ the immortal Gods that he may long continue so.  
 “ If I happen to survive him, be it only as I deserve,  
 “ and as he shall wish it to be ; if it shall please him  
 “ to make me his Heir to the Kingdom I shall ac-  
 “ cept it. The most proper Person to be accused of  
 “ aspiring to the Throne, and of aspiring to it in  
 “ the most unjust and criminal manner, is he who is  
 “ impatient to break the Order and Bands prescribed  
 “ according to Seniority, by Nature, by the Customs  
 “ of *Macedonia*, and the Law of Nations. “ *My el-*  
 “ *der Brother,* (says *Demetrius* to himself) *to whom*  
 “ *the Kingdom belongs both by Right of Seniority and my*  
 “ *Father’s Will, is an obstacle to my ambitious Views.*  
 “ *I must dispatch him. I shall not be the first who has*  
 “ *waded through a Brother’s Blood to the Throne. My*  
 “ *Father in years and left with an only Son will be*  
 “ *too much afraid for his own Life to revenge the*  
 “ *Death of him that is gone. The Romans will be*  
 “ *pleased at seeing me on the Throne, they will applaud*  
 “ *the Fact, and are able to support me. I own, (my*  
 “ *gracious Father) these wild Projects may be defeat-*  
 “ *ed, but I am sure they are not without Founda-*  
 “ *tion. In a word I reduce all to this, it is in your*  
 “ *power to secure my Life by bringing those to con-*  
 “ *dign Punishment who came armed to assassinate*  
 “ *me, but should their Designs take effect it will not*  
 “ *be in your power to revenge my Death.”*

As soon as *Perseus* had ended his Speech, all that  
 were present cast their Eyes on *Demetrius*, intimating,  
 that it was now incumbent on him to answer this Ac-  
 cusation



cusation. But the young Prince being quite overwhelm'd with Sorrow, shedding a Flood of Tears, and seeming unable to speak, a long Silence ensued. At last, being urg'd by his Friends, he made his Grief give way to Necessity, and spoke as follows.

“ All the Advantages, royal Sir, which the Accused generally have, have been forestalled by the Accuser. His feigned Tears have render'd mine suspicious, which, alas! are but too sincere. Ever since my Return from *Rome*, he and his Confederates have been laying Snares for me both Day and Night; and yet he represents me to you, not only as a treacherous Person, but as a Robber and a Cut-throat. He endeavours to alarm you by the pretended Dangers that surround him, that he may hasten by the same means the Destruction of his innocent Brother. He declares that he has no Refuge, no Asylum left, in order to prevent my finding one in your Clemency and Justice. Thus circumvented, friendless and forlorn, he strives to make me odious, by reproaching me with a foreign Credit and Support, which are rather prejudicial to me than serviceable.”

“ Observe I beseech you, royal Sir, with what insidious Art he has blended and confounded the Transactions of last Night with every other Circumstance of my Life, in order to raise a Suspicion in you of my Conduct in general from this last Action, the Innocence of which will soon be evident; and also to support by this idle Story of a nocturnal Attack the no less idle Accusation of my harbouring criminal Views, Hopes and Pretensions. At the same time he has endeavoured to shew, that this Accusation was by no means premeditated or prepared, but only the effect of Fear occasioned by last Night's Tumult.—But, *Perseus*, if I had attempted to betray my Father and his Kingdom; if I had conspired with the *Romans*, or other Enemies



“ of my Father against the State, you ought not to  
 “ have waited the Opportunity of last Night’s fictiti-  
 “ ous Transactions, but to have impeached me be-  
 “ fore this time of such Treason. Or if the charge  
 “ of Treason when separated from this idle Story, was  
 “ altogether improbable, and could serve to no other  
 “ purpose but to prove how much you envy me and  
 “ not to evidence my Guilt; you ought to have post-  
 “ poned it, at least not to have mentioned it now,  
 “ when the only Question to be examined is, whether  
 “ by a new and singular kind of Animosity you laid  
 “ Snarcs for me, or I for you. But I shall endeavour  
 “ as far as the Confusion into which this sudden and  
 “ unforeseen Accusation will permit, to separate  
 “ and distinguish what you have so indiscriminately  
 “ thrown together; that it may be seen, whether the  
 “ treacherous Dealings of last Night belong more  
 “ properly to you or me.”

“ *Perseus* asserts, that I harbour’d a Design to as-  
 “ sassinate him, that, by the Death of my elder Bro-  
 “ ther, (to whom by the Law of Nations, the Cus-  
 “ toms of *Macedonia*, and even as he pretends by  
 “ your Determination the Crown belongs,) even I,  
 “ tho’ the younger Son, might succeed to the Throne.  
 “ To what purpose then is that other Part of his Ora-  
 “ tion, where he declares, that I have been particu-  
 “ larly studious to ingratiate myself with the *Romans*,  
 “ and to have placed my Hopes of ascending the  
 “ Throne in their Assistance? For if I thought the  
 “ *Romans* were powerful enough to impose what  
 “ King they pleased upon the *Macedonians*, and that  
 “ I was so much in their Favour as not to doubt it for  
 “ myself, what need had I to commit Fratricide?  
 “ From a Crown dyed with a Brother’s Blood, what  
 “ could I expect but to become odious and execrable,  
 “ even to those with whom either by real or dissem-  
 “ bled Probity I had acquired, (if such was my good  
 “ Fortune,) some Credit and Authority? Unless  
 “ you

“ you can suppose that *Quintius*, whose Counsels I am,  
 “ accused of following, and who is remarkable for  
 “ living in such delightful Amity with his Brother,  
 “ suggested to me the horrid Design of my imbruing  
 “ my Hands in my Brother’s Blood. *Perseus* has  
 “ likewise summed up all the Advantages by which,  
 “ as he would insinuate, I can promise myself a Su-  
 “ periority over him, such as the Esteem of the Ro-  
 “ mans, the Suffrages of the *Macedonians*, and the al-  
 “ most universal Consent of Gods and Men; and yet  
 “ at the same time as if I was inferior to him in all  
 “ respects, he charges me with having recourse to an  
 “ Expedient, which none but the blackest Villain  
 “ upon Earth could employ. Will you, gracious  
 “ Sir, have us judged by this Rule, that which so-  
 “ ever of us two was apprehensive that the other  
 “ would be thought more worthy of the Diadem shall  
 “ be declared the more likely Person to form a De-  
 “ sign of murdering his Brother ?

“ But let us come to Facts, and examine the Plan  
 “ and Order of the criminal Enterprize with which I  
 “ stand accused. *Perseus* pretends that he has been  
 “ many times attacked, and yet the different Ways  
 “ of Attack are all compris’d in one day. I at-  
 “ tempted, as he says, to kill him in broad day-light  
 “ in the Battle that followed the sacred Ceremony of  
 “ the Review ; I invited him to Supper with a de-  
 “ sign to poison him, and went to his House at night,  
 “ as on a party of Pleasure, with a body of armed Men  
 “ resolved to murder him.

“ You see, royal Sir, the Times I had pitched upon  
 “ for this horrid Fratricide, a Tournament, a Banquet,  
 “ a Party of Pleasure. How venerable and solemn was  
 “ the Day ! A Day on which the Army is review’d,  
 “ on which the resplendent Arms of all the *Macedo-*  
 “ *nian* Monarchs are carried in the front of the Pro-  
 “ cession ; and when we have the Honour to march  
 “ with you at the head of the whole *Macedonian*  
 “ People.



" People. What! tho' purified by this august Sa-  
 " crifice from all the Faults I at any time had com-  
 " mitted, and having before my Eyes the sacred Vic-  
 " tim through which we passed; was my Mind all  
 " the while intent upon Poison, Daggers, and Fratri-  
 " cide? Defiled in such a manner by Crimes of the  
 " most horrid Nature, by what Ceremonies, by what  
 " Victim was it possible for me to purify my Soul?  
 " But a Mind like my Brother's, blind with a Desire  
 " to calumniate, and make every thing in me sus-  
 " pected, betrays and contradicts itself. For, Bro-  
 " ther, had I formed a Design of poisoning you at  
 " a Banquet, how ill-judged would it have been  
 " to exasperate you, and put you upon your guard  
 " by an obstinate Battle, so as to prevent your  
 " accepting my Invitation, which accordingly you  
 " refused? but surely after such a Refusal I had no-  
 " thing to do but to endeavour to be reconciled to  
 " you; and as I had prepared the Poison for you,  
 " ought I not to have sought another Opportunity of  
 " giving you the fatal Draught? Or can it be thought  
 " that I should so suddenly change my Mind, and  
 " attempt to assassinate you, under a Pretence of going  
 " to your House on a Party of Pleasure? Could I  
 " reasonably flatter myself with the Hopes, (taking it  
 " for granted that your Fear prevented you from  
 " coming to the Banquet) that the same Fear would  
 " not induce you to refuse me admittance into your  
 " House?

" I presume, Sir, I may confess to you without  
 " blushing, that in a day of Festivity and Rejoic-  
 " ing, being in Company with some young Gentle-  
 " men of my own Age, I drank more freely than  
 " usual. Inquire, I beseech you, how we spent our  
 " Time at the Feast, how full of Mirth we were, how  
 " transported with thoughtless Gaiety, not a little  
 " heightened with perhaps too indiscrete a Joy, at the  
 " supposed Victory we had gained in the Tournament.

" The



“ The Misery and Danger of this unforeseen Accu-  
 “ tion have but too easily dispelled the Fumes of  
 “ Wine, or, such terrible Assassins as we are, our  
 “ Eyes had still been closed in Slumbers. Had I  
 “ formed a Resolution to attack your House with a  
 “ view of murdering you, it would have been strange  
 “ if I could not have abstained from Wine, for one  
 “ Day, and kept my Companions from the like  
 “ Excess.

“ But that it may not be thought, that I alone act  
 “ with Frankness and Simplicity, let us hear my  
 “ Brother, whose Conduct is sincere and undisguised ;  
 “ and who harbours not any unjust Suspicion. *All,*  
 “ says he, *that I know or complain of, is, that they*  
 “ *came armed to my House upon pretence of engaging in*  
 “ *a Party of Pleasure.* Should I ask you how you  
 “ came to know this, you will be forced to own, either  
 “ that my House was filled with your Spies, or else  
 “ that my Attendants took up Arms in so public a  
 “ manner that it was known to every one. And  
 “ now, that you may not seem to have formerly  
 “ watched all my Motions, nor at this time to  
 “ ground your Accusation merely on Conjectures,  
 “ you desire that it may be asked of those whom you  
 “ shall name, whether People did not come armed to  
 “ your House ; that, as if this was a doubtful Circum-  
 “ stance, after such Inquiry they may be considered as  
 “ legally convicted upon their own Confession. But  
 “ is this the Question ? You ought rather to inquire,  
 “ whether they took up Arms to assassinate you,  
 “ and whether this was done with my Knowledge,  
 “ and at my Request. This is what ought to be  
 “ inquired into ; not what they themselves own pub-  
 “ licly, and which is very manifest, that they took  
 “ up Arms in no other view than to defend them-  
 “ selves. Whether they had or had not reason so to  
 “ do, they will themselves inform you. Do not  
 “ blend and confound my Cause with theirs, for they  
 “ are

“ are quite distinct and separate. Or say, whether  
 “ you think we intended to attack you openly or by  
 “ Surprise; if openly, why did we not all take  
 “ Arms? why were those only armed who insulted  
 “ your Spy? if by Surprise, how would it have been  
 “ conducted? The Entertainment being over, and  
 “ when I had left you, did the four Men in question,  
 “ who staid behind, design to murder you in your  
 “ Sleep? How was it possible for them to conceal  
 “ themselves in your House, as they were Strangers,  
 “ in my Service and very much to be suspected,  
 “ having been seen but a few hours before engaged in  
 “ the Quarrel? Or how could they think to have  
 “ escaped had they murdered you? Could four  
 “ Men, however armed, make themselves Masters  
 “ of your House?

“ But to leave this nocturnal Fiction, and to come  
 “ to what pains you indeed, and which you have so  
 “ much at Heart. *Wherefore, O Demetrius, (me-*  
 “ *thinks I hear you say) do the People talk of making*  
 “ *you King? why do some Persons think you more*  
 “ *worthy than I to succeed my Father? why do you*  
 “ *render all my Hopes doubtful and uncertain, which,*  
 “ *were it not for you, would have been established on the*  
 “ *most solid Foundation?*—Such are the Reflexions  
 “ which *Perseus* revolves in his Mind, though he  
 “ keeps them close. It is this that makes him  
 “ my Enemy and Accuser: It is this that fills the  
 “ Palace, and every part of the Kingdom with Sus-  
 “ picions and Accusations. If it does not become me,  
 “ Sir, to entertain the least Hopes of the Scepter, and  
 “ perhaps I ought not to think of ever contesting it,  
 “ because it is your Will and Pleasure, that I should  
 “ yield to my elder Brother; it does not follow that  
 “ I ought to make myself appear unworthy of it,  
 “ nor will I, either to you, my royal Father, or to  
 “ the *Macedonians*: Far be such Vileness from me:

“ I can



" I can indeed, through Moderation, give up what  
 " belongs to another, but I cannot prevail with my-  
 " self to renounce my Virtue and good Name.

" You reproach me with the Affection of the *Romans*,  
 " and impute that to me for a Crime which ought to  
 " be my Glory. It was not by my own Desire that  
 " I was sent to *Rome*, either at first as an Hostage,  
 " and afterwards as Embassador: This, Sir, you  
 " well know yourself: It was your Command, and  
 " I obeyed. And such was my Conduct and Beha-  
 " viour there, that I think it cannot reflect the least  
 " Dishonour either to yourself, your Crown, or *Ma-*  
 " *cedonia*. Yourself therefore, gracious Sir, occa-  
 " sioned the Friendship that I have contracted with  
 " the *Romans*; and so long as you are at Peace with  
 " them, so long probably will our Friendship subsist.  
 " But should War again break out, even I, though I  
 " had once been a kindly-treated Hostage among  
 " them, and had there exercised the Functions of  
 " an Embassador, not disadvantageous I hope to my  
 " Father, from that moment should declare myself  
 " their most strenuous Enemy. Nor do I now ask  
 " any Benefit on this Occasion, from the Love which  
 " the *Romans* have for me; all I intreat is, that it  
 " may not be prejudicial to me. It was not begun in  
 " War, nor in War is it designed to subsist. For Peace  
 " was I an Hostage, and to maintain that Peace an  
 " Embassador; let neither of them, I pray, be con-  
 " sidered in me as a Crime or a Merit.

" If I have violated in any manner the Respect I  
 " owe to my Father; if I have formed any unnatural  
 " Design against my Brother, let me be punished as  
 " I deserve. But if I am innocent, this I claim; that  
 " as I cannot be convicted of the least Guilt, I may  
 " not fall a Sacrifice to Envy. This is not the first  
 " time that I have been accused by my Brother, but  
 " it is the first time he hath attempted it in so public  
 " a manner, though without the least Foundation.



" Was my Father exasperated against me, it would  
 " be your Duty, as the elder, kindly to intercede for  
 " your younger Brother; to solicit his Pardon, to  
 " intreat that some Regard might be shewn to his  
 " Youth, and that a Fault committed merely through  
 " Inadvertency might be overlooked. But where I  
 " might naturally have expected Safety, I find Ruin  
 " and Destruction.

" Tho' scarce awake, after a Feast and Party, of  
 " Pleasure, I am dragged here on a sudden to answer  
 " a Charge of Fratricide; and am forced to plead  
 " my own Cause, without a Counsellor, without a  
 " Friend to assist me. Had I been to speak in favour  
 " of another, I should have taken time to prepare  
 " and compose my Discourse, and yet, on such an  
 " occasion, I should have hazarded my Reputation  
 " only. But now, without knowing the Cause for  
 " which I am order'd to appear in this Place, I hear  
 " an offended Father commanding me to make my  
 " Defence, and a Brother charging me with the most  
 " horrid Crimes. *Perseus* has had all the Time he  
 " could desire to prepare his Accusation, whilst un-  
 " happy I did not so much as know what the Business  
 " was, till the very instant the Accusation was brought  
 " against me. In this hasty moment ought I to be  
 " attentive to my Accuser, or studying an Apology?  
 " Surpris'd by such a sudden and unforeseen Accusa-  
 " tion, I could scarce comprehend what was laid to  
 " my Charge, so far from being able to know how  
 " to make a Defence. What Hopes could I have,  
 " what Refuge could I expect, was it not that my  
 " royal Father is to be the Judge? He may shew  
 " a greater Affection for my Brother, as the elder;  
 " but he owes more compassion to me, as being the  
 " Party accused. I conjure you, royal Sir, to pre-  
 " serve my Life for your own sake as well as mine;  
 " while *Perseus* insists upon your sacrificing me to his  
 " safety. What can you think will become of me,  
 when

“ when he is invested with your Authority, who now  
 “ demands your Favour in preference to me at no less  
 “ a Price than my Blood?”

While *Demetrius* was making this his Defence, his Words were continually interrupted by deep Sighs and Groans intermix'd with Tears. *Philip*, dismissing both of them for a while, consulted with his two Friends, and then ordering them to be called in again, he told them, “ I will not pronounce Sentence on  
 “ this Affair, from mere Words, and a few transient  
 “ Speeches, but from the Inquiry I shall make into  
 “ your Conduct; from your Behaviour in every particular, and from your Words as well as Actions.” This Judgment shewed plainly enough, that although *Demetrius* had sufficiently cleared himself with regard to the Charge of endeavouring to take away his Brother's Life, *Philip* however still suspected him on account of the Favour he had gained among the *Romans*.

And accordingly some time after this, the King sent *Philocles* and *Apelles* as his Embassadors to *Rome*, not so much with a Design of employing them in any Negotiation, as to inquire how the Inhabitants of that City stood affected towards *Demetrius*, how they had received this Charge of *Perseus* against him, and what he had ever said, particularly to *Quintius*, with regard to the Succession to the Throne. *Philip* had chosen these two Men for this Business, because he looked upon them as neuters in this Quarrel, and as Men attached to neither Party; but they were secretly *Perseus*'s fast Friends, and were engaged with him in his Conspiracy. *Demetrius*, who knew nothing of what was transacting, (his Brother's Accusation excepted,) at first entertained some small hopes of pacifying his Father; but when he saw that his Brother intirely ingrossed his favour, and that he could not have the least Access to him, he began to despair. And all that he now endeavoured was, to keep a



watchful Guard over his Words and Actions, in order to shun all occasions of Suspicion and Envy. He was particularly cautious not to mention the Name of the *Romans*, or to hold the least Correspondence with them, even by Letter; knowing it was this that chiefly incens'd the Mind of his Father, and was interpreted highly criminal. He ought indeed to have taken these Precautions sooner; but this young Prince, who had little Experience, and was frank and sincere in all things, judging of others from himself, imagin'd he had nothing to fear from the dissembled Affections of a Court, with whose Intrigues and Artifices he ought to have been better acquainted.

*Philip* from a vulgar Opinion, which prevailed in *Macedonia*, that from the top of Mount *Hæmus*, the *Black Sea* and the *Adriatic*, as also the *Danube* and the *Alps*, might be discovered, was curious to have an ocular Demonstration of it; imagining that this Prospect might be of service to him in the Design he meditated, of making *Italy* the Seat of War. Having inquired of those who knew the Way concerning his ascending Mount *Hæmus*, and being told that it was impossible to carry an Army with him, and that the Way would be very difficult even for a few and those light-armed; as it were to amuse *Demetrius* with familiar Discourse, whom he intended not to take with him, he ask'd him, *what he thought of this Expedition, and whether it was better to pursue his Design or lay it aside; but that if he went, he would have him remember what Antigonus had done on the like Occasion, when he refused to take all his Sons aboard with him, lest by any Accident on the Sea the Line should be extinct: So that as he intended to take Perseus with him, he doubted not but that Demetrius would be satisfied to stay behind, as his only Hope and Guard in Macedonia. Demetrius saw through this Excuse, but to prevent all Jealousy thought it not proper to disobey his Father, who had ordered him*

into



into *Macedonia*, and that *Didas*, the Governor of *Pæonia*, and one of the King's chief Officers, should escort him thither. Now this Governor was a Creature of *Perseus*, who had taught him his Lesson perfectly; and had exhorted him above all things to insinuate himself as artfully as possible into the good Graces of the young Prince, that he might discover all his Secrets.

*Didas* executed his Commission but too well. He agreed to every thing that *Demetrius* said, lamented his hard Fate, seemed to detest the Injustice and Insincerity of his Enemies, who represented him, on all occasions, in the most odious Light to his Father; and offered to serve him to the utmost of his Power. *Demetrius* however, under great Discontent, was resolved to fly to the *Romans*. He fondly imagin'd that Heaven had now given him the Opportunity, since it was necessary to pass through *Pæonia*, of which *Didas*, as before observ'd, was Governor: And accordingly he revealed the Design to him. *Didas* without loss of time sent Advice of this to *Perseus*, and the latter inform'd the King of it; who having undergone inexpressible Fatigues in his Journey up Mount *Hæmus*, was return'd with no better Information from his Inquiry, than he carried with him. The Monarch however and his Attendants did not think it proper to refute the vulgar Opinion; in all probability that he might not expose to ridiculous a Journey to the public Laughter. Be that as it will, he was employ'd in the Siege of a City called *Petra*, when the News abovemention'd was brought him. *Herodorus* *Demetrius's* bosom-friend was immediately seized, and strict Orders were given to keep a watchful Eye over the young Prince.

*Philip*, at his return to *Macedon* fell into a deep Melancholy. This last Attempt of *Demetrius* went to his Heart. He thought it proper however to wait till the return of the Embassadors whom he had sent

to *Rome*, and who had been thoroughly instructed before they left *Macedon*. They reported exactly what had been dictated to them; and moreover presented the King with a forged Letter sealed with the counterfeit Seal of *T. Quintius*, in which he desired *Philip*, not to be offended at his Son *Demetrius* for some unguarded Expressions which might have escaped him, with respect to Succession to the Crown; assuring him, that he would not engage in any Attempt contrary to the Ties of Consanguinity and Nature; and he concluded with observing, that it was never in his Thoughts to give him such Counsel. This Letter confirm'd all that *Perseus* had advanc'd against his Brother. *Herodorus* was put to the Torture, and died on the Rack, without charging his Master with any thing.

*Perseus* again accused his Brother before the King. His having projected a Design of flying to the *Romans* thro' *Paonia*, and of bribing certain Persons to accompany him in his Flight, were urg'd against him with much Vehemency; but what gave him the greatest Blow was the forg'd Letter of *Quintius*. His Father nevertheless did not declare himself publicly against him, resolving to make away with him by secret Treachery; not so much out of regard to his Son, but lest the Noise, which the bringing him to Execution would make, should discover too visibly the Designs he projected against *Rome*. At his leaving *Thessalonica* therefore to go to *Demetrias*, he commanded *Didas* privately to dispatch the young Prince. And accordingly having taken *Demetrius* with him into *Paonia*, he poison'd him at an Entertainment that was made after a Sacrifice, either real or pretended. *Demetrius* had no sooner drank the deadly Draught, but he was seized with violent Pains. He withdrew to his Apartment, complaining bitterly of his Father's Cruelty, and loudly charging his Brother with the Crime of Fratricide, and *Didas* with his barbarous Treachery. His Pains increasing, two of *Didas's* Domestic



Domestics entered the Room, threw Blankets over his head, and stifled him. Such was the End of this innocent but unhappy young Prince, who in the opinion of all Men deserv'd a much better Fate.

Almost two Years were elapsed, before the Conspiracy of *Perseus* against his Brother was discovered. In the mean time *Philip*, tortured by Grief and Remorse, incessantly deplored his Son's Murder, and reproached himself with his Cruelty. His surviving Son, who looked upon himself already as King, and to whom the Courtiers, as usual, began to attach themselves, from the Expectation that he would soon be their King, gave him no less Pain. It was infinitely shocking to him to see his old Age despised, some waiting with the utmost Impatience for it, and others declaring themselves already without any Reserve.

Among those who had Access to him, *Antigonus* held the first Rank. He was Nephew of that *Antigonus* who had been *Philip's* Guardian in his Minority, and under that Name and in that Quality had reigned ten Years. This worthy Man had always continued firmly attached as well by Inclination as Duty to his Sovereign, in the midst of the Tumults and Cabals of the Court. *Perseus* consequently never cared for him, but this inviolable Attachment to his Father made him his professed Enemy. *Antigonus* plainly perceived the Danger he should be exposed to when that Prince should succeed to the Crown. And finding that *Philip* began to fluctuate in Thought, and would from time to time sigh and weep for his Son *Demetrius*, he thought it proper to take Advantage of that Disposition; when sometimes listening to his Discourse on that Subject, and at other times beginning it himself, and regretting the precipitate manner in which that Affair was carried on, he entered into his Sentiments and Complaints, and thereby gave them new Force. And as Truth always leaves some Footsteps by which it may be discerned, he used his utmost

utmost Endeavours to trace out the secret Intrigues of *Perseus's* Conspiracy.

The chief Persons concerned in this black Affair, and most justly to be suspected, were *Apelles* and *Philocles*, who were sent Embassadors to *Rome*, and had brought from thence as in the Name of *Quintius*, the Letter which had proved so fatal to the young Prince. It was indeed generally whispered at Court, that this whole Letter was forged, but still there was no Proof of it. Very luckily *Xychus*, who had been Secretary to the Embassy of *Apelles* and *Philocles*, fell into Company with *Antigonus*, who immediately put him under an Arrest, carried him to the Palace, and leaving him under a strong Guard, went to *Philip*, to whom he addressed himself in these Words. “ I imagined, royal  
“ Sir, that it would be a great Pleasure to you to be  
“ certified in the Opinion you ought to have of your  
“ two Sons, and which of them it was that made an At-  
“ tempt upon the other’s Life. You have now in your  
“ power the Man who is best able to give you an Ac-  
“ count of the whole Affair, and that is *Xychus*. He is  
“ here in your Palace, if you are pleased to order him  
“ before you.” *Xychus*, being immediately brought in, at first denied every thing, but he spoke so faintly, that it was evident he would make a full Discovery, if in the least intimidated. Accordingly the instant that the Officer of Justice appeared, he submitted, and revealed the whole Intrigue of the Embassadors, and even the Share he himself had in it. *Philocles*, who happen’d to be in Court, was immediately seized ; but *Apelles*, who was absent, hearing that *Xychus* had made a full Confession fled to *Italy*. History does not inform us of the Particulars which were extorted from *Philocles*. Some say, that he resolutely at first denied the Charge, but that being confronted with *Xychus*, he was utterly confounded ; others affirm, that he bore the Torture with the utmost Fortitude, and asserted his Innocence to the last Gasp. All these things  
only



only exaggerated the old King; a Father equally wretched, whether he turned his Reflexions to his murdered Son, or to him who was still living.

*Perseus* being informed that his whole Plot was discovered, knew too well his own Power and Credit to think it necessary to secure himself by Flight. The only Precaution he took was to absent himself from Court as long as his Father should live, in order to withdraw himself from his warm Resentment.

Nor did *Philip* think himself able at that time to seize *Perseus* and bring him to condign Punishment. All that he could propose was to prevent his enjoying with impunity the Fruits of his inhuman Guilt. He hereupon sent for *Antigonus*, to whose great care he owed the Discovery of the Conspiracy; and whom he judged very well qualified, both on account of his personal Merit, and of his Uncle *Antigonus's* recent Fame and Glory to fill the *Macedonian* Throne: And thus he said, "Being reduced to the deplorable Necessity of wishing what other Fathers detest as a most dreadful Calamity, that I had been childless; I am now resolving to bequeath you a Kingdom which I owe to the Guardianship of your Uncle, and which he not only preserved by his Fidelity, but enlarged considerably by his Valour. I know no Man worthy of the Crown but yourself. And were there none capable of wearing it with Dignity, I had rather it should be lost for ever than that *Perseus* should have it as the Reward of his impious Perfidy. Methinks I shall see *Demetrius* rise from the Sepulchre, and restored to the longing Eyes of his Father, if I can be so happy as to substitute you in his place; you the only Person who bewailed the untimely Death of my dear Son, and the unhappy Credulity which proved his Destruction".

After this, *Philip* bestowed the highest Honours on *Antigonus*, and took every opportunity of producing him in the most advantageous Light to the public.

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Whilst *Perseus* resided in *Thrace*, *Philip* made a Tour through several Cities of *Macedon*, and recommended *Antigonus* to all the Noblemen of the greatest Distinction, with the utmost Zeal and Affection; and it is very probable, that if Fate had allowed him a longer Life, he would have put him in possession of the Throne. Having left *Demetrius*, he made a considerable stay in *Theſſalonica*, from whence he went to *Amphipolis*, where he fell dangerously ill. But the Physicians declared that his Sickness proceeded more from his Mind than his Body. Grief kept him continually awake; and he frequently imagined, in the dead of Night, that he saw the Ghost of the ill-fated *Demetrius* reproaching him with his Death, and calling down Curses on his Head. Thus bewailing one of his Sons with a shower of Tears, and venting bitter Imprecations against the other, he expired, having reigned forty three Years.

*Antigonus*, in all likelihood, would have been raised to the Throne, had the King's death been immediately divulged. But *Calligenes* the Physician, who presided in all the Consultations, did not stay till the King had breathed his last; the very instant he saw that it was impossible for him to recover, he dispatched Couriers to *Perseus*, it having been agreed between them that he should keep some in readiness for that Purpose; and he concealed the King's death from every one without the Palace, till *Perseus* appeared, whose sudden arrival surprised all People; and who then took possession of the Crown which he had laboured for with such guilty Ambition.

He reigned eleven Years; the four last of which were employed in War against the *Romans*, for which he had made Preparations from his accession to the Throne. At last *Paulus Æmilius* overcame him in a famous Battle near the City of *Pydna*, and having taken him Prisoner, whatever Inclination he had to serve him, he could do no more for him than to procure



cure his not being sent to a public Prison. *Perseus* therefore with his Son *Alexander* were carried, after having been led in Triumph, to *Alba*, where by an Order of the Senate he was supplied with Money and Attendants; but most Authors agree, that by abstaining from Food he occasioned his own death; which put an end to the Kingdom of *Macedon*; it being soon after reduced into a Province to the *Romans*\*: And it is said his Son was forced to learn the Trade of a Smith to get his Living.

\* About the Year of the World 3838. Before J. Christ, 166.

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